

Message Text

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12
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 OMB-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W
----- 115278

R 301808Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5589
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL NICE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28755

MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, MN, FR
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISIT TO MONACO

REF: (A) STATE 241457, DTG 290018Z SEP 76;
(B) PARIS 27808, DTG 221900Z SEP 76.

1. SUMMARY: WE CONSIDER THAT PROPOSAL FOR A VISIT TO MONACO BY NUCLEAR POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER NIMITZ PRIOR TO RESOLUTION OF OVERALL ISSUE OF U.S. NPW VISITS TO FRANCE IS ILL-TIMED AND ILL-ADVISED. END SUMMARY.

2. WE NOTE FROM MATERIALS POUCHED TO EMBASSY THAT QUESTION OF NPW VISITS TO MONACO HAS BEEN UNDER INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITHIN THE USG AT LEAST SINCE 1973. THIS ISSUE CANNOT BE ADDRESSED APART FROM THE OVERALL QUESTION OF NPW VISITS TO PORTS THROUGHOUT FRANCE. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, EMBASSY HAS MADE STRENUOUS EFFORT THIS YEAR

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TO URGE GOF TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY AND PERMIT NPW

VISITS. THESE HAVE INCLUDED DEMARCHES BY THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH AND GENERAL MERY DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST SPRING. AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE HAS ALSO DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES.

3. AS A RESULT OF THESE SUSTAINED APPROACHES, THE GOF AGREED TO REVIEW ITS POLICY ON NPW VISITS IN AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION. THE RESULTS OF THAT POLICY REVIEW WERE REPORTED IN REF B. IN ESSENCE THE FRENCH POSITION IS THAT:

-- NO CHANGE IN FRENCH LAW WILL BE REQUIRED FOR U.S. NPW VISITS TO BE PERMITTED AND,

-- IF THE U.S. CAN MEET THE FRENCH CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN REF B, THESE VISITS CAN COMMENCE WITHIN A REASONABLY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

4. THUS WE ARE NOW AT A POINT WHERE WE HAVE A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE FRENCH AND THEY IN TURN HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO RECEIVE NPW VISITS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS FAVORABLE CLIMATE COULD EASILY BE JEOPARDIZED SHOULD THE USG PROCEED WITH AN ATTEMPT TO SHOE-HORN THE NIMITZ INTO MONACO. FRANCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MONACO UNDER THE TREATY OF 1918. THUS, DESPITE THE ASSUMED WILLINGNESS OF PRINCE RAINIER TO RECEIVE NPW VISITS, IN THE FINAL RESOLVE THE DECISION WILL REST WITH THE GOF. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS TO ATTEMPT TO BYPASS THE GOF AND DEAL WITH THE PRINCE DIRECTLY ON THIS MATTER. SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD PROVOKE A

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R 301808Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5590
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SERIOUS FRENCH REACTION AND COULD WELL END ANY POSSIBIL-
ITY OF U.S. NPW VISITS TO FRANCE OR MONACO FOR YEARS TO
COME.

5. THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO APPROACH THE GOF TO TEST THEIR
WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO A VISIT BY THE NIMITZ TO MONACO
BEFORE THE GENERAL ISSUE OF NPW VISITS TO FRANCE HAS
BEEN RESOLVED. IF WE WERE TO MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH TO
THE GOF, WE WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO BASE OUR POSITION ON
A LEGAL NICETY THAT MONEGASQUE TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE
CLEARLY SEPARABLE FROM THE ISSUE OF FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY
FOR MONACO'S DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS. WE DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT GOF WOULD ACCEPT THIS LINE. WE FURTHER
FEAR THAT THE GOF MIGHT CONSTRUE SUCH AN APPROACH AS AN
ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE AN NPW VISIT THROUGH AN INDIRECT
METHOD CLEARLY DESIGNED TO PRE-EMPT THE ULTIMATE GOF-USG
RESOLUTION OF THE NPW ISSUE IN FRANCE.

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6. BASED ON THE FOREGOING WE RECOMMEND THAT NO SUCH
APPROACH BE MADE TO THE GOF UNTIL THE GENERAL QUESTION
OF NPW VISITS TO FRANCE IS RESOLVED.
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